



Bath-Braunschweig Twinning Association



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Monthly meetings

Monthly meetings will be held in the Mayor's Parlour in the Guildhall in Bath at 2 pm on the following dates:

14 February
6 March
3 April
1 May
19 June (AGM)

to join contact: Martin Guest, Membership Secretary BBTA
bta18@hotmail.com 07932 144136



DEG

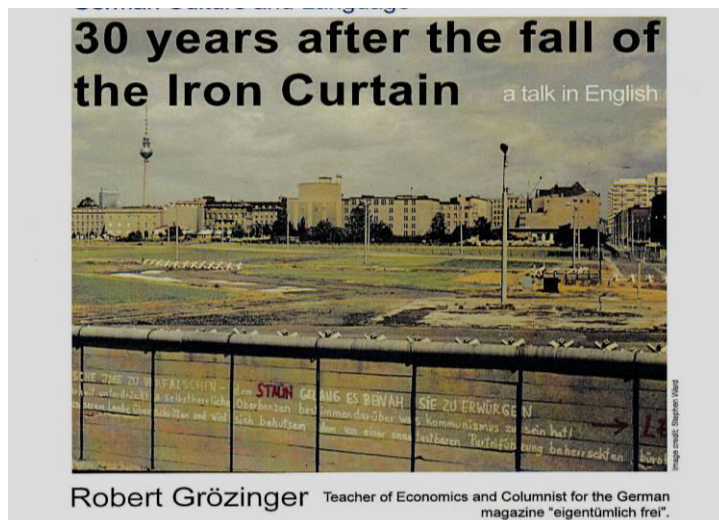
Letter from Braunschweig

A new year has begun, a new decade even. Looking back at 2019 it is clear to see that it was the year of protests all around the world and also in Braunschweig where people, young and old together, went on the streets to show their concern about a meeting of a far-right wing party and to demonstrate for a better climate, for tolerance and respect. Twinning activities such as the ones carried out by the DEG and BBTA support these values and we are looking forward to all kinds of visits and exchanges in 2020 and the years to come.

Best wishes from Katrin and the DEG



At the end of September, members of the Bath-Braunschweig Twinning Association enjoyed a convivial lunch at the Globe Inn, Newton St. Loe. It was generally agreed that the excellent hospitality of the Globe staff provided the ideal occasion for us to catch up on tales of our recent travels and other twinning events. A raffle was held to augment our twinning funds, which are used to support further twinning exchanges and develop our links with Brunswick.



On 7th November, almost 30 years to the day since the Berlin Wall was inadvertently declared open, our member Robert Grözinger gave a personal account of living with the division of Germany and its subsequent unification. As someone who was born and raised in Brunswick, Robert recalled how the Brunswick of his childhood, situated close to the inner-German border, had been almost a backwater compared with the rest of West Germany, and how the fabled Brocken - a distant mountain on the horizon - was inaccessible behind the heavily fortified border. Happily, after 1989, Robert was able to realise his dream of visiting this mountain with his young family from Bath - and even to sit on the Wall itself at the New Year's party of 1989 / 1990.

Robert also addressed the issues of the socialist / communist state constructed in East Germany after the defeat of fascism and under the auspices of the Soviet Union. These ideas will form part of his forthcoming book which we await with interest.

Judy Spencer

STAMMTISCH



Would you like to speak German in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere? Our Stammtisch meets every Wednesday between 12.00 and 13.30 at Harington's Hotel in the centre of Bath. We also have an occasional evening Stammtisch at The Thief, details of which are available from the Bath German Society. You're never too young to start speaking German!

Forthcoming Events for 2020

- 31 March Paul Kavanagh and a group of 20 will be in Bath for about 4 days with a view to visiting manor houses in the area
(pkavanagh@t-online.de)
- 2 to 9 May A group of 30 will in Bath, staying at the Hilton Express
(sabine.apel@braunschweig.des)
- 4 to 7 May Civic visit of Mayor Ulrich Markurth (a group of 4) to Bath
- October Visit to the Schwarz-Gold Badminton Club of Braunschweig
(judithaspencer@outlook.com)

Members are warmly invited to meet the visitors. Further details from the email addresses.



Weinprobe

On 20th December committee members invited members and friends of the BBTA to a German wine tasting. We were pleased that some 13 people were able to attend and enjoy a variety of German wines and good conversation on twinning links and other matters.

We hope to repeat this event in the coming year and to strengthen our links with other "twinners".

Judy Spencer



Visit from the Ricarda Huch School

On Friday 20th September 2019 the Mayor of Bath, Councillor Gerry Curran, held a reception for 11 school pupils and their accompanying teachers from the Ricarda Huch School in Brunswick. The visit is the latest in a longstanding link between this school and King Edward's. The Mayor enjoyed a lively discussion with the young visitors on environmental issues, while they were also very interested in the demonstration "Youth Strike 4 Climate" which was taking place outside the Guildhall.

The German pupils spent a week with host families in Bath, attending classes at King Edward's, but also finding time to fit in visits to London, Bristol and Cardiff - and of course the Roman Baths.

Polite Notice

Annual subscriptions are due in early April. Bath members will be receiving a reminder shortly.